



Iowa Range

northeastern Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

winterberry

Ilex verticillata

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering
plants

Features

Winterberry is a shrub that may grow to 15 feet tall. Its simple, elliptical leaves are arranged alternately along the branches. Leaves are finely toothed along their edges and may be three inches long. Flowers grow in small clusters at the base of leaves or are solitary. They are white and less than one-fourth inch long. The bright red fruits are spherical and about one-fourth inch in diameter.

Natural History

Winterberry grows in wet ground such as that found in bottomland forests. It flowers from May through June. The "berries" are a food source for birds.

Habitats

bottomland forests

Iowa Status

endangered; native

Winterberry has been found in only a few locations in Iowa. It has always been rare and has become more rare with the loss of habitat.